

response, Applicants confirm the election with traverse to prosecute the invention of Group I, Claims 1-15.

The requirement for election is traversed because the inventions set out by the claims in Groups I and II are clearly related. Applicants submit that a thorough search and examination of either Group would be relevant to the examination of the other Group and would not be a serious burden on the Examiner. Additionally, requirements for election are not mandatory under 35 U.S.C. 121. Accordingly, reconsideration of the election requirement is requested.

The rejection of Claims 1-15 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Crowell et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,859,482) ("Crowell") is respectfully traversed.

Crowell describes a liquid cooled electric motor stator frame 102 including a cooling conduit 142. Cooling conduit 142 is arranged in a generally helical configuration and stator frame 102 is cast around cooling conduit 142 such that conduit 142 is embedded within, and integral with, stator frame 102. A plurality of spacer bars 152 provide support for cooling conduit 142 and facilitate maintaining a desired spacing between a plurality of lengths of cooling conduit 142 and between conduit 142 and a stator frame wall. Rather, in contrast to the present invention, Crowell does not describe nor suggest a spacer bar having a notched side and at least one finger projecting outwardly from the notched side.

Claim 1 recites a stator frame for an electric motor wherein the stator frame comprises "at least one spacer bar comprising a notched side and at least one finger projecting outwardly from said notched side."

Crowell does not describe nor suggest a stator frame for an electric motor wherein the stator frame includes at least one spacer bar comprising a notched side and at least one finger projecting outwardly from the notched side. Rather, Crowell describes a liquid cooled electric motor stator frame that includes a plurality of spacer bars, but does not describe nor suggest that

the spacer bars include at least one finger projecting outwardly from a notched side. For at least the reasons set forth above, Claim 1 is submitted to be patentable over Crowell.

Claims 2-7 depend, directly or indirectly, from independent Claim 1. When the recitations of Claims 2-7 are considered in combination with the recitations of Claim 1, Applicants submit that dependent Claims 2-7 likewise are patentable over Crowell.

Claim 8 recites an electric motor including "at least one spacer bar...said spacer bar comprising a notched side and at least one finger projecting outwardly from said notched side."

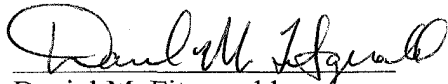
Crowell does not describe nor suggest an electric motor including at least one spacer bar wherein the spacer bar includes a notched side and at least one finger projecting outwardly from the notched side. Rather, Crowell describes a liquid cooled electric motor stator frame that includes a plurality of spacer bars, but does not describe nor suggest that the spacer bars include at least one finger projecting outwardly from a notched side. For at least the reasons set forth above, Claim 8 is submitted to be patentable over Crowell.

Claims 9-15 depend, directly or indirectly, from independent Claim 8. When the recitations of Claims 9-15 are considered in combination with the recitations of Claim 8, Applicants submit that dependent Claims 9-15 likewise are patentable over Crowell.

For at least the reasons set forth above, Applicants respectfully request that the Section 102 rejection of Claims 1-15 be withdrawn.

In view of the foregoing remarks, all the claims now active in this application are believed to be in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and favorable action is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully Submitted,



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